Anzio, a small town about 60 Km from Rome, is built on the headland that slopes towards the harbor Innocenziano. At the sides of the two rivers, characterized by the Art Nouveau buildings sprouting from the green and enriched by the silvery domes of Paradise on the Sea. The '50s and '60s were the golden age of Anzio, choosing rental from actors and characters of the sweet life in Rome. Today the city offers its coastline that runs for 12 km, a delicate and renowned cuisine based on fresh fish, the parks to enjoy cool evenings, the pine woods for walking experiencing unforgettable moments of tranquility surrounded by nature, the beautiful nature reserve of Tor Caldara, the connection to the Pontine Islands, the clarity and beauty of water and proximity to Rome.The origins of this city are lost in the mists of time and legend, the most popular, perhaps because more full of charm and prestige, is that which attributes its foundation to Antias one of three children who have had the sorceress Circe to Ulysses . The historic Xenagora argues that the city was founded by Ascanius, the son of Aeneas, after the landing of the Trojans in Latium. Leaning against the promontory which stretched into today's Neptune, occupying rocky shelves overlooking the coast, in a position easy to defend, Anzio blooms in ancient Latium and its fortunes are tied to employment of the Volscians and relations with Rome. During the occupation Volscan (V century BC) Anzio was proud rival of Rome, only to be destroyed and reduced her to a colony in 338 BC Partisan Cornelius Sulla during the civil war, was again destroyed by the troops of Caius Marius in 87 BC At the end of the Republican Anzio experienced a period of true splendor becoming the favorite holiday destination for the wealthy Roman patricians. Temples and palaces embellished the city, while the coast is built the villas of the most important personages of the time: Marcus Tullius Cicero, Maecenas, Gaius Lucretius and Caesar Augustus. They stayed at Anzio all the emperors Augustus was proclaimed Father of the Fatherland, Caligula, who was born, he wanted it as the capital of the empire, Hadrian defined it as one of the most beautiful places in Italy, but it was Nero, who in Anzio was born on December 15 of the year 37 AD to edify the harbor, called 'port Nero', an admirable example of maritime engineering, beautifying the palace and the city with marbles and statues.Anzio was equipped with three aqueducts. The oldest spa in the city carried the water from the villa of Maecenas near today's Tor Caldara, while two others carried drinking water. Anzio offered baths, amphitheatres and circuses. Cicero wrote, "I prefer to live rather than in Rome at Anzio." Anzio is sung by all the major Roman poets that emphasize the splendor. Anzio rich temples are erected in honor of Apollo, Hercules, Venus and the popular Lucky Anziate, famous for its oracle. So much beautiful architecture at Anzio remain only a few relics, as well as foundations. The most valuable exhibits can be admired today in the Roman National Museum, where is the 'Maiden of Anzio', a masterpiece of Hellenistic sculpture dating from the fourth century BC or III In the Vatican Museums is located 'Apollo Belvedere'. At the Louvre we find the 'Borghese Gladiator' at the Capitoline Museums and the black marble statue of Aesculapius. Reached the pinnacle of glory in the second century, then begins the slow decay of Anzio, culminating in 330, when Constantine moved the capital of the empire to Byzantium.In the early centuries of the Christian Anzio was Episcopalian. In later centuries came the barbarian invasions and raids of Saracen pirates. In the history of the maritime republics, Anzio is remembered for the battle which took place in waters 30 May 1378, while a violent storm raged, the Venetian galleys led by Vittorio Pisani defeated and destroyed the Genoese in part driven by Luigi Fieschi. The rediscovery of the city was thanks to Cardinal Antonio Pignatelli, who going to Rome to attend the conclave after the death of Alessadro VIII, February 2, 1691, was forced to land at Anzio because of a strong and sudden storm. Deeply moved by the welcome and the prayers of the people, promising them an interest in the ruins of the port where Nero had become pope. The Cardinal Pignatelli, was elected Pope Innocent XII, he started work in May of 1698, asking the major architects of the time: Fontana and Zignaghi. He was chosen the project presented by Zignaghi and, under the guidance of the same, the work began and ended between severe difficulties during the same month two years later, in 1700, under the direction of Cardinal Benedetto Pamphili. The Antiates finally had the new port called Innocenziano. After a few years the mouth of the harbor, however, accumulated much sand that the ships of a certain size there could be accessed only in periods of high tide.Innocent XII also built a small chapel dedicated to St. Anthony, a home for convicts sentenced to prison, a hospital and an aqueduct. Of all these works is faith in a stone walled building still on the corner of Blacksmith and Piazza Pia.Under the pontificate of Pius IX in the city continued its development. Good half of Roman society, Anzio acquired the character of the resort and residence. At the end of 1800 Anzio takes the spirit of a small town, surely frivolous, but conformed to the effervescent spirit of the Risorgimento Italy. On 26 June 1856, with effect from 1 January next year, Anzio became an independent municipality. In 1870, eight years after the last visit of Pope Pius IX, the territory of the town of Anzio meets the Kingdom of Italy. In 1939, under fascism, Anzio and Nettuno are unified, changing the name of the first Nettunia in Porto. In 1945, after the Anglo-American landing, the two municipalities regain their autonomy. The villa of NeroNero, Tacitus tells us in the Annales, Anzio was born, and perhaps for this reason, a preference for Lazio this city and built a port facilities, public buildings and their villa. Today it remains some walls eroded by the waves and weather. The global landscape is always great, if only for the allusion to the splendor that is there. Once the house was a half moon on a high plinth walls with gardens, pools, ponds for breeding fish, gyms, arcades, baths and most likely a small home theater. Legend has it that the star from his villa Anzio Nero witnessed the burning of Rome. The park was frequented and appreciated particularly by his mother Agrippina and his wife Poppea. We know for sure that in this house took place the funeral and cremation of a child of the imperial couple died just four months. Nero, a man of great culture, the villa had a rich library with shelves made of wood, adorned with gold studs, full of rolled scrolls of Homer, Virgil, Ovid, and certainly also of Seneca. In the most secret of the house, those facing the ground, there must be a domestic museum with pictures of caprigi fauns, centaurs and Amazons. From this museum statues come from the most famous archaeological dell'Anzio: the Apollo Belvedere, the Borghese Gladiator and the Maiden of Anzio. The girl from AnzioDiscovered in 1878 in a niche of the imperial villa, consists of two blocks of marble. 1.70 meters high, depicts a young girl facing left forward dressed in a chiton with a large himation. The beautiful sinuous line puts it in an intermediate stage between gait and stop. His attitude and votive objects suggest that this is a priestess or a person connected to the worship of a deity. Many scholars believe that it is an original greek dating to the late third century BC, others consider it a splendid copy made in the period between Tiberius and Nero. The Maiden of Anzio is kept at the National Roman Museum and was taken as a symbol of ancient Roman greatness of Antium.

The landing at Anzio

Anzio lived the last world conflict in a dramatic way, directly affected by the Allied landings and counteroffensive by the German bombing, hunger and displacement. The early hours of January 22, 1944, preceded by violent naval bombardment, a convoy of 374 ships landed the VI Corps, USA, initiating Operation Shingle, ordered by Churchill to relieve the Cassino front, groped the breaking of the Gustav line and step up on the Italian side, to reach as quickly as possible to counter any Soviet expansion in the east. The first British Division landed between the towers and San Lorenzo Caldara, and between Neptune and tower Astura landed the third American division. Two divisions were added to other forces consist of units of engineers and 3 battalions of rangers assault, the first to set foot on the beachhead, occupying the port and the Riviera di Levante. In the night between 29 and 30 January three Ranger battalions penetrated up to tank, but only a few men managed to return. From the Germans bombed incessantly Campoleone Villa Borghese, in whose basement there was the strategic headquarters of the Allies, two shots penetrated inside the caves, but did not explode. The population was almost completely displaced in Naples. Within weeks, the Germans did get reinforcements from all sides and surrounded the Allies unleashed a deadly counter-attack, which came up to Santa Teresa to drive out the allies seriously threatened in the sea. Only a massive aerial bombardment sought and received from the base of Bari, combined with the bombardment of support ships, caused the seal of the bridgehead. The defense of Monte Cassino was not completed until May 18. On June 4, the Allies entered Rome. Characteristic placesChurch of the Pio and Antonio ss erected in the years 1851-56 for the desire of Pius IX in the neoclassical style, located in Piazza Pia.Remains of the ancient Roman theater, Piazza del Teatro Romano, a short distance there is the area of ​​the rampart Volsci, the fortification that protected the ancient Antium.St. Therese of Lisieux, monumental building dedicated to the saint of Lisieux. It was started construction in 1926.The Romanesque church of three naves with a gallery, and the transept floor with various marbles and dazzling colors, from Villa Spigarelli. The church dedicated to St. Therese National Shrine stands on the site where there was already a small chapel dedicated to the 'Saint of the Rose'. Complete this monument the highest bell tower with a quadrangular base dedicated to the fallen in the battle of Anzio (1944), provided a lift for visitors.

Villa Adele

Originally Villa Cesi, was the first villa built by Cardinal Bartolomeo Cesi Anzio in 1615, the site of the tower called an empire. The villa became the property during the centuries of Cesi, the Pamphili family, the Doria Pamphili, Borghese and Aldobrandini. The name Villa Adele appeared in 1800 when the owners were Prince Francesco Borghese and his wife Adele. In 1911 it was purchased by the Bank of Italy in 1927 and is made of the 'Hall of shells'. The forepart of the building, which became Grand Hotel Excelsior Palace Hotel, was completed in 1928. In 1937 became the seat of the secretariat general of the Fasci abroad. In 1964 it was purchased by the town of Anzio to be used as a primary school and public park. Currently, one of salt, was placed the 'museum of landing': displays uniforms, weapons, decorations, documents and battle plans, photos of veterans, everyday objects, all strictly true. The museum is complemented by: photo library, tape library, library, newspaper library, flags, collections of photographs, motorcycles, etc.. Many items come directly from the seabed around Anzio, where they lie at different depths mines, missiles, planes, warships and cargo, landing craft, mini-submarines. It's also the town library, the Department of Culture, the Archaeological Museum.

Villa Albani

Built by Cardinal Alessandro Albani (nephew of Pope Clement XI) between 1740 and 1745. In this magnificent building facing the harbor, the Cardinal stayed during the summer with his friends, especially with G. Winchelmann (famous for his discovery of Troy by giving credit to Homer), who studied it and put in order the collections. At the cardinal's death, in 1779, fell into neglect. The Reverend Apostolic Chamber, in 1852, bought the house, making it available to the pope. The villa became the papal palace at Anzio giving hospitality to Pope Pius IX.

Villa Borghese

Seventeenth-century villa overlooking the sea, surrounded by pine trees that separate Anzio to Nettuno. It is supposed to have been built on the ruins of the temple dedicated to Neptune.

Villa Sarsina

Nero built opposite the old port in 1745 by Cardinal Blacks Maria Corsini on the ruins of the house of the Caesars. In 1820 the villa was bought by Lorenzo Mencacci that, among others, hosted the exiled king of Portugal in 1835. A plaque marks the first visit of Pope Pius IX to the port of Anzio in 1849. In 1870 it became the property of Pietro Aldobrandini, Prince of Sarsina. In the last world war has hosted the displaced and was seriously damaged. It is now owned by the municipality.

Villa Spigarelli

Built in 1920 by the owner's father, lawyer. Spigarelli. The popular tradition built on the ruins of the tomb think of Coriolanus, most likely built on the ruins of a villa dating back to Nero, which has preserved the style and which contains some valuable findings.

Angelita

A soldier of the body of Fusiliers Royal of Scotland, SC Hayes, who landed at Anzio with the Anglo-American, found a child alone and inconsolable crying on the beach, the girl was accepted among the soldiers and called Angelita. In the midst of a heavy bombardment of the beachhead at Anzio by German artillery, a few days after its discovery, Angelita died with the Red Cross nurse who looked after her, without being found out his true identity. The monument to the girl, taken as a symbol of the landing at Anzio and the brutality of war, rests on a simple stand along the west coast, in a small open space, made January 22, 1979. A little girl is thin and stylized free of seagulls in a harmonious and agile flight. The bronze statue is the work of sculptor Sergio Capellini.

The port

And 'the greatest economic resource, social and historical city. It has an area of ​​about 18,500 square meters and has as its primary activity is fishing, three thousand years life activity of Anzio. The project for the expansion of the port is ready and waiting for the completion of proceedings to begin the work.

Paradise on the Ocean

In 1919 Joseph Polli conceived the construction of the casino, Paradise by the sea, with large bright rooms in place of the temple and green carpets are in place. The construction was entrusted to architect Bazzani, begun in 1919 and completed in 5 years. The building in Art Nouveau style with strong elements Masonic hall has a semi-elliptical in shape, supported by six gray columns with capitals resting on white travertine. Two game rooms, both circular in shape, have a ceiling supported by ten pillars of Tosatto with frescoes, the first room with scenes spring, called the Spring, the other with scenes of dancing nymphs. Spring is accessed from the lounge onto a large terrace, the balcony is adorned by six statues (unfortunately decapitated by vandals): Summer, Spring, Industry, Commerce, Fall, Winter. Downstairs is the dining room in shades of white and gray with ivory stucco, the circular dance floor outlined ten Ionic columns. The inauguration took place with solemn pomp, but did not like Pope Pius X, who promoted the closure, not being able to tolerate a place of vice in two steps from the heart of Christendom. Now owned by the city, the building houses a hotel school. Federico Fellini wanted him in his film Amarcord, allestendolo Grand Hotel of Rimini. Alberto Sordi and Monica Vitti danced in the halls on the set of Stardust. To see the beautiful interiors you have to wait the event that the municipality will organize especially in summer.

Natural Reserve of Tor Caldara.

Nature Reserve of 44 hectares, established in 1988, located between Anzio and Lido Lavinio to 34,400 km of road Ardeatina. Is one of the last remaining portions of the thousands of hectares of forest that covered the Lazio until early 1900. The reserve contains an example of Mediterranean forest dominated by evergreen oaks, cork trees, heather, strawberry trees, alders, poplars, quiver, oaks. Also rich in fauna consists of reptiles, amphibians, birds and various mammals. The numerous hot springs, where bathing is forbidden, are due to the rise of volcanic gases from the peripheral roots of the volcano Lazio.